

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 /076 W

----- 052829

R 071430Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1140

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY DOHA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 3227

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, PFOR, SA, MU

SUBJECT: A) SAUDI FINANCIAL ASSISTANT TO OMAN 2) KING KHALID

BLAMES THE BRITISH FOR CONTINUATION OF THE WAR

1. IN A MAY 5 MEETING WITH SAUDI CROWN PRINCE FAHD THE AMBASSADOR RAISED THE QUESTION OF OMAN'S FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES AND INQUIRED WHETHER THE SAG WAS GOING TO BE ABLE TO HELP. FAHD SAID THAT THE SAG WAS INDEED GOING TO ASSIST SULTAN QABOOS AND HIS COUNTRY BECAUSE IT IS NOT IN SAUDI ARABIA'S INTEREST TO HAVE THAT SITUATION WORSEN. AS TO THE AMOUNT OF SAUDI HELP, FAHD SAID THAT HE WAS "THINKING OF AROUND \$200 MILLION."

2. THE SUBJECT OF OMAN CAME UP LATER IN THE DAY IN A MEETING BETWEEN THE AMBASSADOR AND KING KHALID. FOR NOR APPARENT REASON KHALID LAUNCHED INTO A DIATRIBE
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AGAINST THE BRITISH, ACCUSING THEM OF A LONG SERIES

OF INIQUITIES RANGING FROM THE BURNING OF WASHINGTON
IN THE WAR OF 1912 THROUGH THEIR PERSISTENT ATTEMPTS
TO SOW SEEDS OF DISCORD BETWEEN AMERICANS AND ARABS, TO
THE PRESENT SITUATION IN OMAN. ON THIS LATTER SUBJECT
KHALID'S MAIN POINT WAS THAT THE BRITISH COULD LONG
AGO HAVE ENDED THE WAR IN DHOFAR HAD IT NOT BEEN IN
THEIR COMMERCIAL AND POLITICAL INTEREST TO KEEP IT
PERKING ALONG.

3. COMMENT: THE VEHEMENCE OF KHALID'S ANTI-BRITISH
REMARKS CAME AS A SURPRISE. WHAT HE HAD TO SAY ABOUT
OMAN WAS NOT ORIGINAL; IT IS A THEME WE HAVE HEARD FROM
DIVERSE SOURCES INCLUDING THE DIRECTOR OF ARABIAN
PENINSULA AFFAIRS AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND MINISTER
OF DEFENSE SULTAN. THE LATTER WAS PROBABLY RESPONSIBLE
FOR BRIEFING THE KING ON THE SUBJECT.
AKINS

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Message Attributes

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